

MARVEL

2

DEADPOOL'S

Art of War

David – Koblish – Staples



DEADPOOL'S

Art of War

Deadpool said: The *Art of War* is of vital importance to making me a ton of money, and I like money.

But since I can't get a publisher to buy my book (which I may or may not have borrowed from a Chinese warlord that I whacked on a trip to the past...), I tricked Loki (that's right I manipulated the god of mischief) into starting a war with his brother Thor.

With my help the trickster defeated the god of thunder and that's just the beginning. Once the world is all stuck in an all-consuming, endless war I'll be on my way to the top of the New York Times Best-Seller List.

WRITER - PETER DAVID

ARTIST - SCOTT KOBLISH

COLORS - VAL STAPLES

LETTERER - VC'S JOE SABINO

COVER - SCOTT KOBLISH

ASSISTANT EDITOR - CHARLES BEACHAM

EDITOR - JORDAN D. WHITE

X-MEN GROUP EDITOR - MIKE MARTS

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF - AXEL ALONSO

CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER - JOE QUESADA

PUBLISHER - DAN BUCKLEY

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER - ALAN FINE

© 2014 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. WWW.MARVEL.COM



"ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT
IN WAR, YOUR BIGGEST
OBJECTIVE IS VICTORY,
NOT A LENGTHY CAMPAIGN."

"THE LEADER IS THE ONE WHO
DECIDES WHAT'S GOING TO
HAPPEN TO PEOPLE. THE ONE
ON WHOM PEACE OR TROUBLE
IS GOING TO DEPEND."

"AND A WISE LEADER MAKES A
POINT OF FORAGING ON THE
ENEMY. IF YOU FORAGE ON THE
ENEMY, YOUR ARMY WILL HAVE
FOOD ENOUGH FOR ITS NEEDS."



FOR FAR TOO LONG, YOU HAVE WASTED THE WONDERS OF VALHALLA, BROTHER.

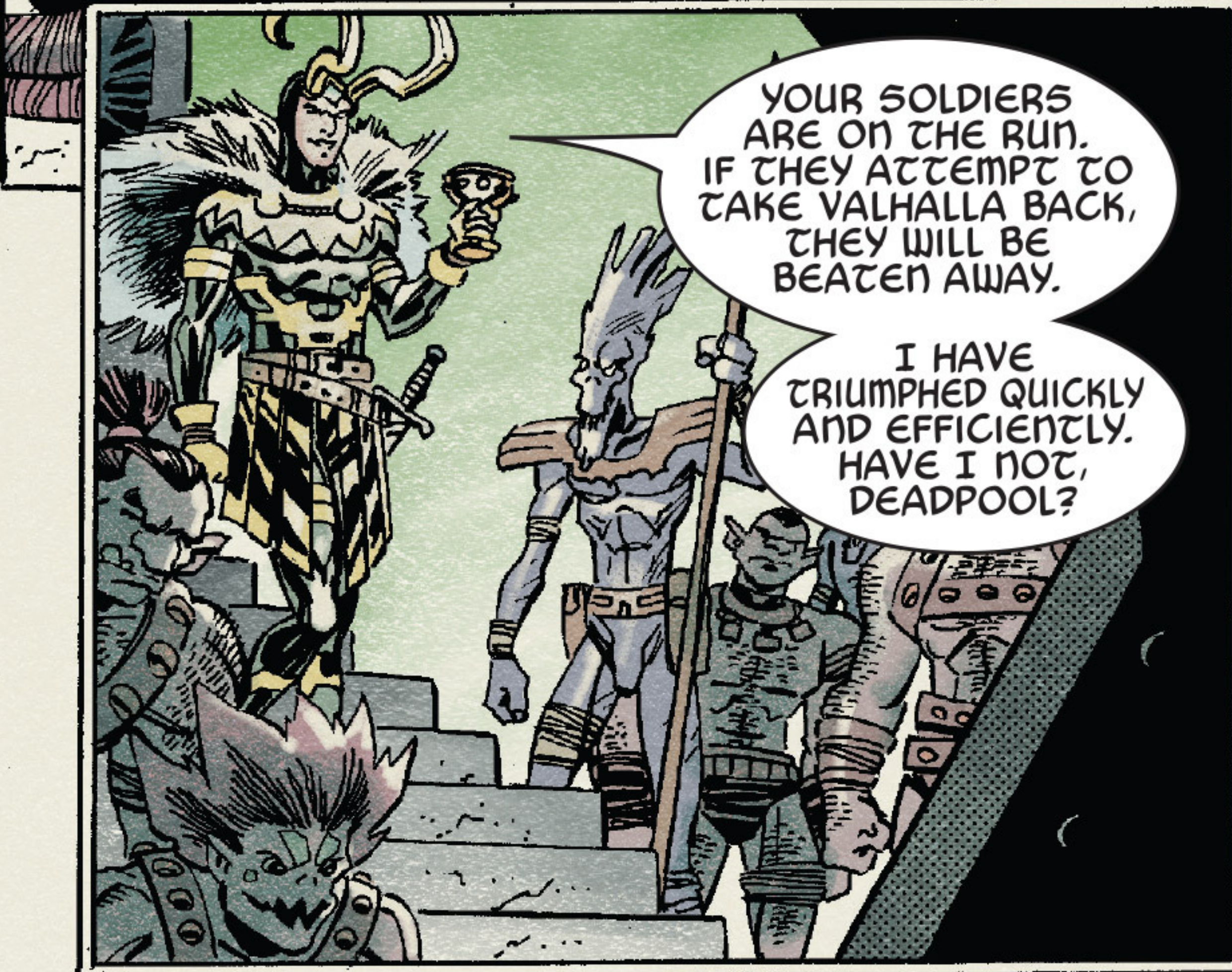
HOW WONDERFUL THAT, ON THIS JOYOUS DAY, MY TROOPS AND I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PUT ITS CAPABILITIES TO ITS FULL USE.



THIS WILL NOT LAST, BROTHER... THIS...

...IT WILL NOT.

my SOLDIERS... WILL FREE ME...



YOUR SOLDIERS ARE ON THE RUN. IF THEY ATTEMPT TO TAKE VALHALLA BACK, THEY WILL BE BEATEN AWAY.

I HAVE TRIUMPHED QUICKLY AND EFFICIENTLY. HAVE I NOT, DEADPOOL?



GOOD THING. IF THE CAMPAIGN TAKES A LONG TIME, THE STATE WON'T BE UP TO KEEPING IT GOING.

CLEVERNESS AND LONG DELAYS HAVE NEVER GONE TOGETHER.

WELL SAID.



WELL, I DIDN'T SAY IT. SUN-TZU SAID IT.

INDEED? WHAT ELSE DID HE SAY?

OH, THAT YOU SHOULD TAKE MONEY AND SUPPLIES FROM THE PEOPLE. THAT YOU SHOULD--



AN EXCELLENT IDEA!

WELL, NO, YOU DON'T HAVE TO, BECAUSE--

LOOT THE TOWNSPEOPLE!

"THE HOMES OF THE PEOPLE
SHOULD BE STRIPPED BARE,
AND THREE-TENTHS OF
THEIR INCOME WILL BE TAKEN..."

"AND GOVERNMENT EXPENSES
FOR BROKEN WEAPONS AND
ALL THAT WILL AMOUNT TO
FOUR-TENTHS OF ITS..."

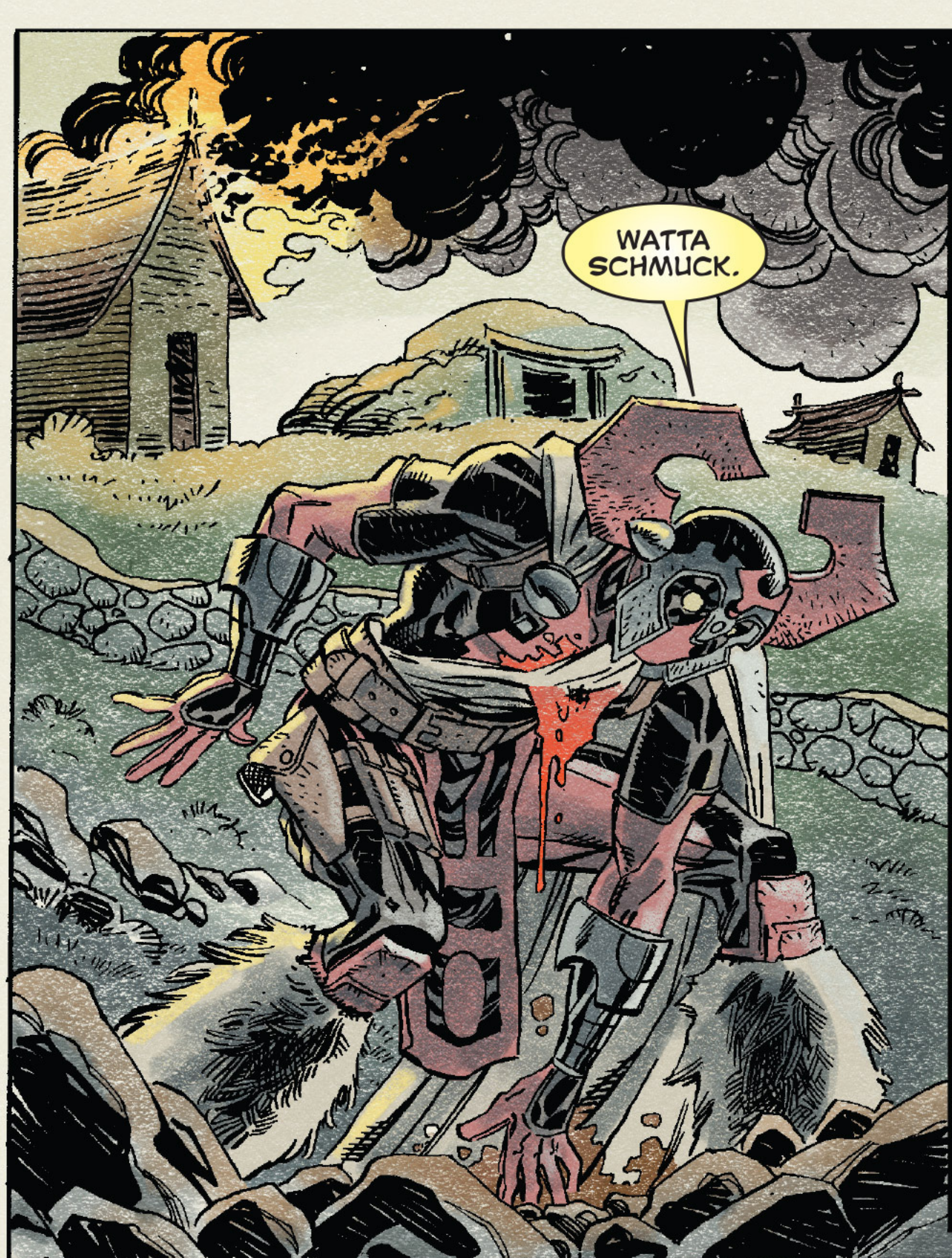
GUYS, WAIT!
THREE-TENTHS!
FOUR-TENTHS! NOT
EVERYTHING!

YOU CAN'T
JUST--!

ARRRGH!!

YES! THIS
WILL DO
NICELY!

WAAAHAAHAAH WAAAH!



WATTA
SCHMUCK.



WHOA!
WOOF!



ARE
YOU ALL
RIGHT?

OH
YEAH. I'M
FINE.

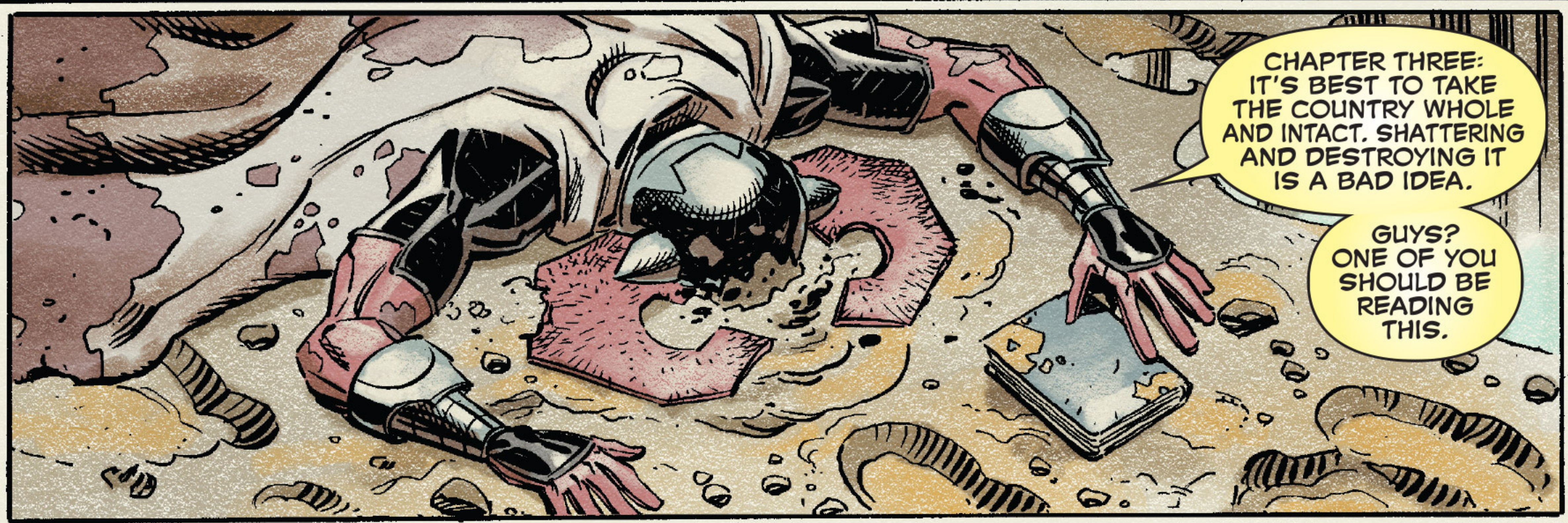


HOW ABOUT
NOW?!?!?

OOOOF!
LESS
SO NOW.



GOOD.

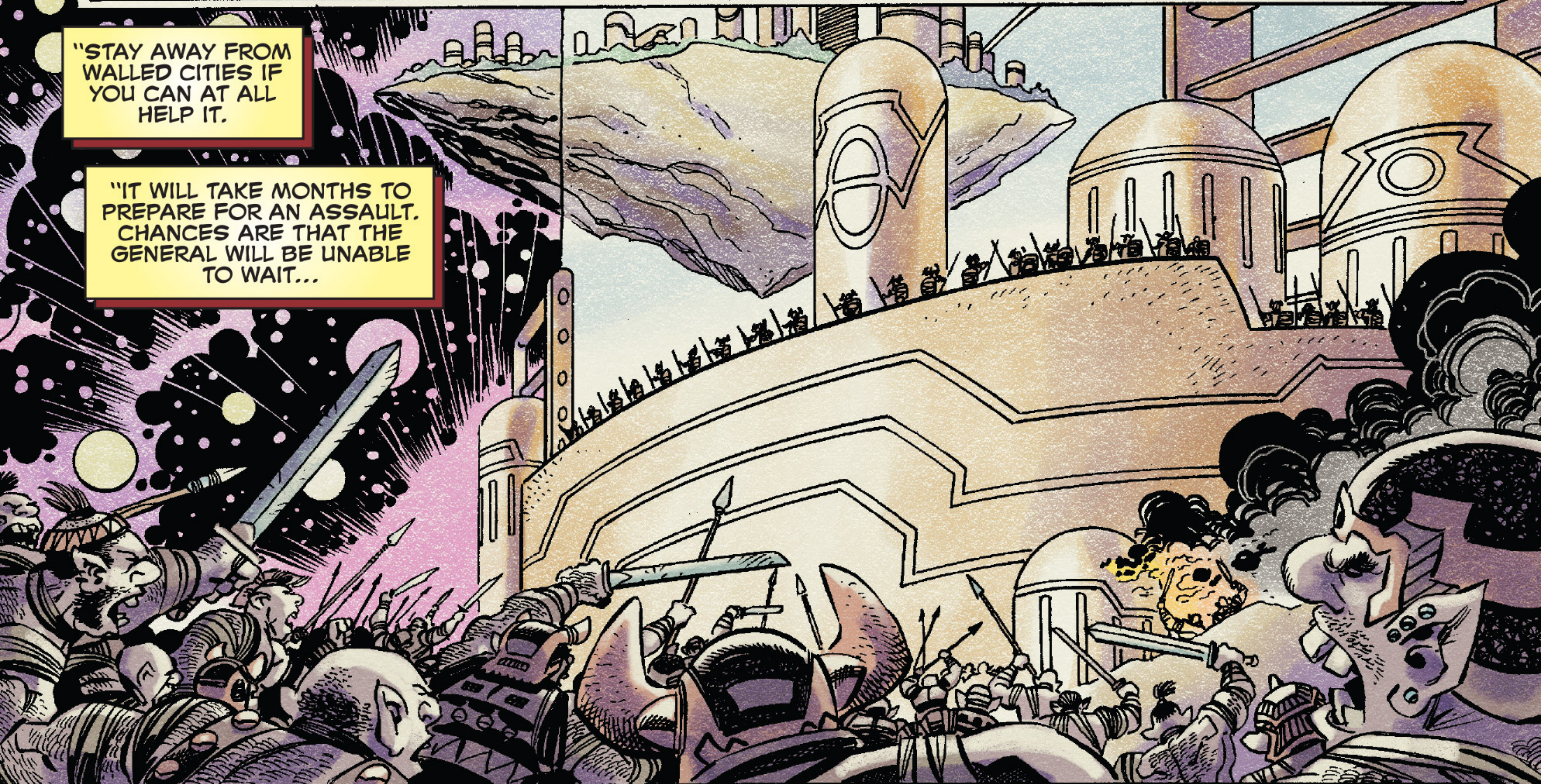


CHAPTER THREE:
IT'S BEST TO TAKE
THE COUNTRY WHOLE
AND INTACT. SHATTERING
AND DESTROYING IT
IS A BAD IDEA.

GUYS?
ONE OF YOU
SHOULD BE
READING
THIS.

"STAY AWAY FROM
WALLED CITIES IF
YOU CAN AT ALL
HELP IT.

"IT WILL TAKE MONTHS TO
PREPARE FOR AN ASSAULT.
CHANCES ARE THAT THE
GENERAL WILL BE UNABLE
TO WAIT...

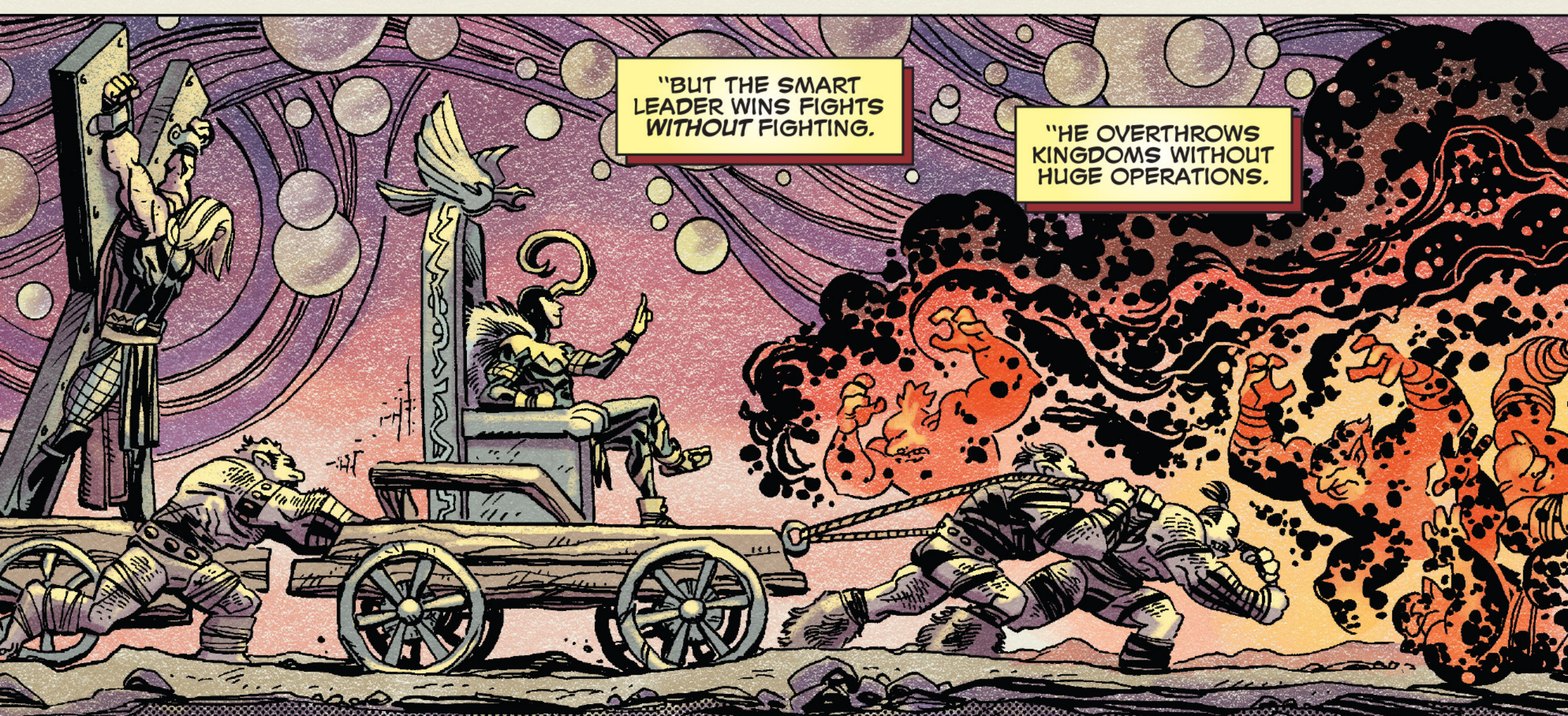


"SO HE'LL LAUNCH HIS
ARMY AT IT. THE RESULT
IS THAT ONE-THIRD WILL
BE SLAIN...

"...WHILE THE CITY
REMAINS IMMUNE
TO THE ATTACK.

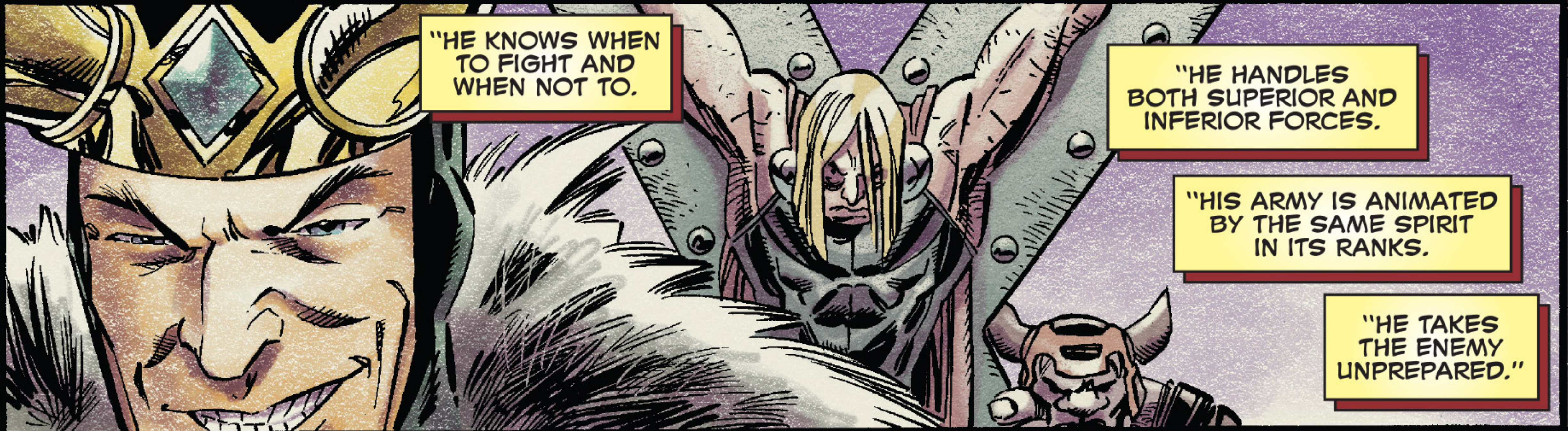
"SO A SIEGE IS
USUALLY MORE
OR LESS A
DISASTER.





"BUT THE SMART LEADER WINS FIGHTS WITHOUT FIGHTING."

"HE OVERTHROWS KINGDOMS WITHOUT HUGE OPERATIONS."



"HE KNOWS WHEN TO FIGHT AND WHEN NOT TO."

"HE HANDLES BOTH SUPERIOR AND INFERIOR FORCES."

"HIS ARMY IS ANIMATED BY THE SAME SPIRIT IN ITS RANKS."

"HE TAKES THE ENEMY UNPREPARED."



ALL-FATHER! LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE I RETURNED HOME!

AND I HAVE BROUGHT SOMEONE WHO IS EAGER TO SEE YOU...

PROVIDED HE LIVES THAT LONG.



THAT, HOWEVER, IS GOING TO DEPEND ENTIRELY UPON YOU!

PRESENT YOURSELF, ODIN, AND SURRENDER ASGARD TO ME...

OR BID FAREWELL TO YOUR ELDEST SON!



IGNORE HIM, FATHER! SEND HIM ON HIS WAY...

AND LEAVE ME TO MY FATE!

DO NOT SURRENDER!

NOW NOW, THOR...I THINK WE BOTH KNOW THAT IS NOT HOW THE ALL-FATHER'S MIND WORKS.



YOU SEE, ALL-FATHER. IT IS AS WE DESCRIBED IT.

I SEE ALL, FANDRAL. I SEE MY SON IN MORTAL DANGER...

...FROM WHICH YOU FAILED TO PROTECT HIM.

WE WERE TAKEN UNAWARES, SIRE...

I EXPECTED BETTER OF THE WARRIORS THREE. NOW IT IS LEFT TO ME...



...TO RIGHT YOUR WRONG.

OPEN THE GATES.

YOU HAVE YOUR ORDERS.

BUT SIRE...



NO, NO, FATHER, I BEG YOU--

SAVE YOUR BREATH, THOR. IT WILL DO YOU NO GOOD.

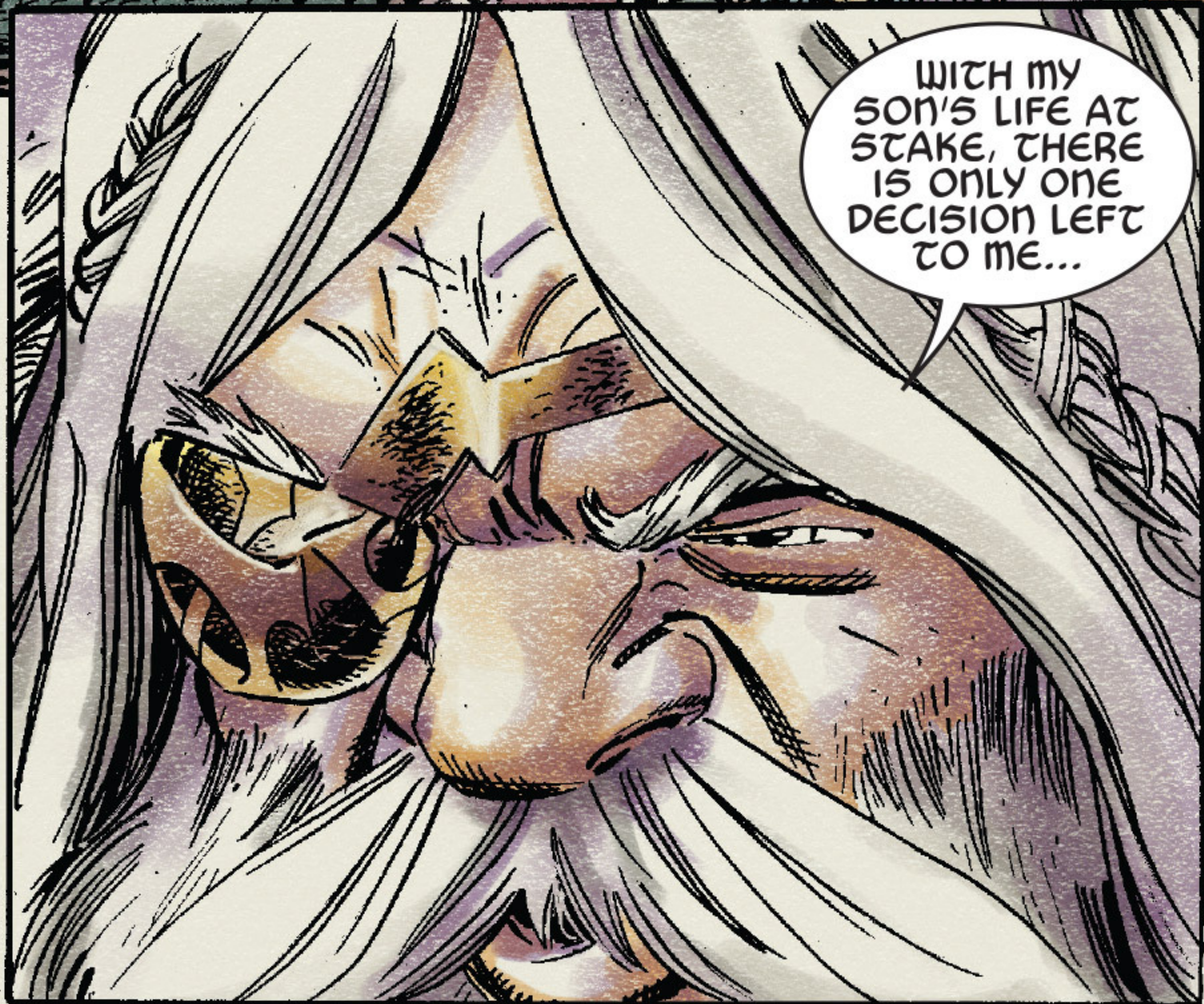
FATHER. HOW SPLENDID TO SEE YOU.

I WISH I COULD SAY THE SAME, MY SON.



WE COULD DISPUTE THE ACCURACY OF YOUR CALLING ME "SON," BUT 'TIS BEST TO SAVE THAT DISCUSSION FOR ANOTHER TIME.

YOUR DECISION ON THE LONGEVITY OF YOUR ELDEST SON, ODIN. WE ALL WAIT WITH BREATHLESS ANTICIPATION.



WITH MY SON'S LIFE AT STAKE, THERE IS ONLY ONE DECISION LEFT TO ME...



ASGARDIANS.
HEAR ME, MY
PEOPLE.

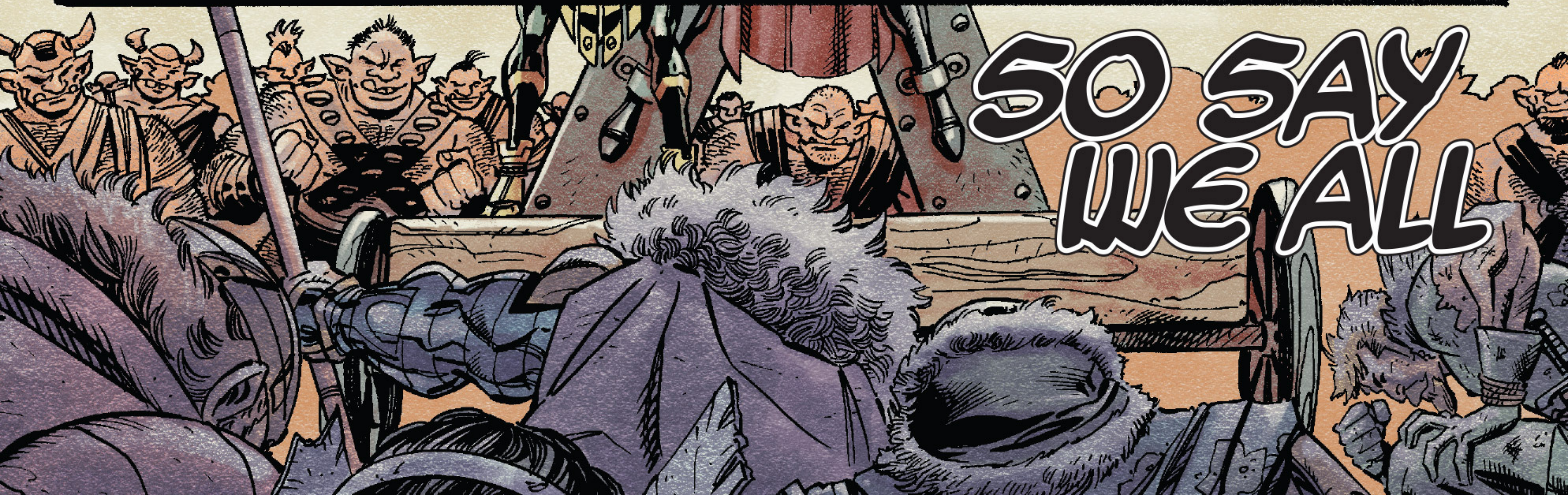
DO NOT FIGHT.
OFFER UP NO
RESISTANCE.

FROM THIS
MOMENT FORTH,
'TIS LOKI WHO
IS RULER OF
ASGARD.

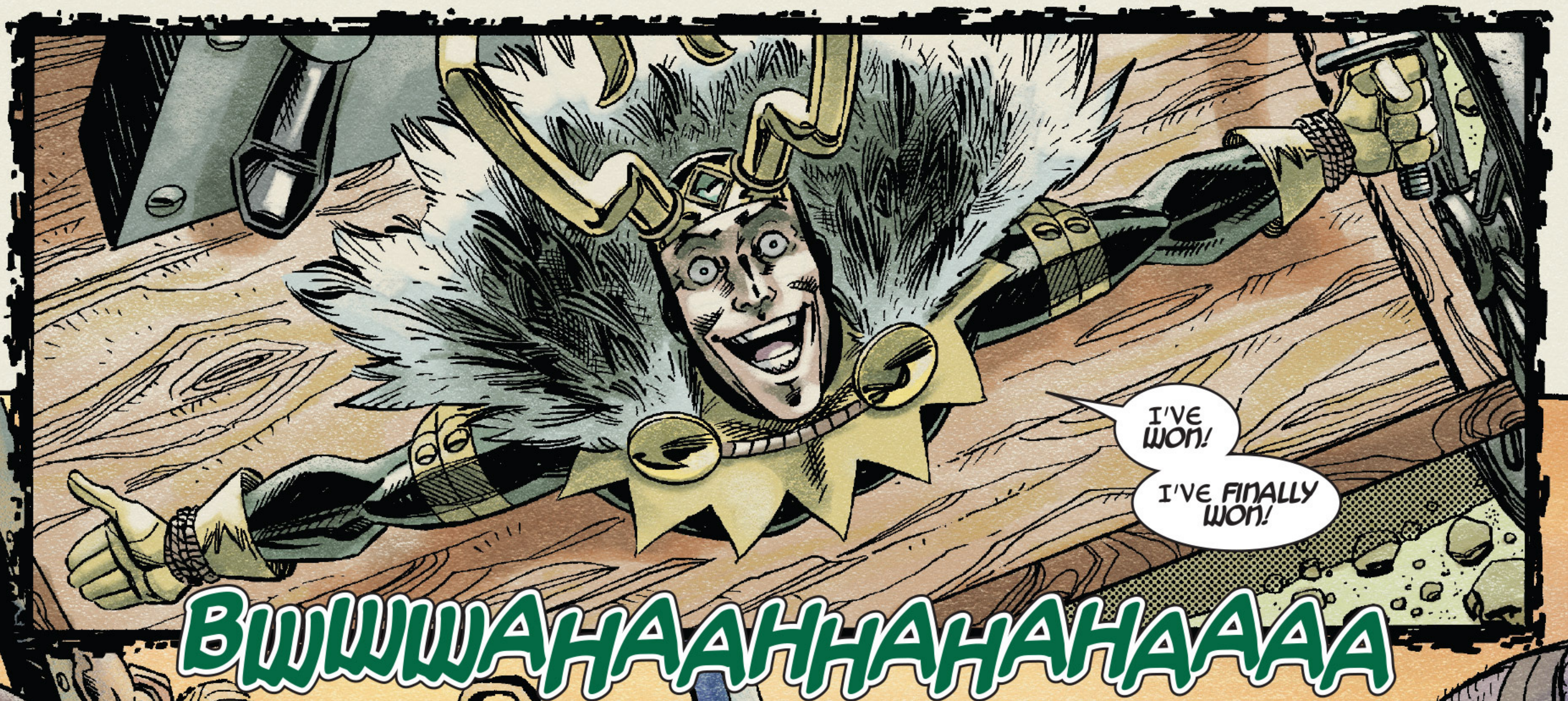
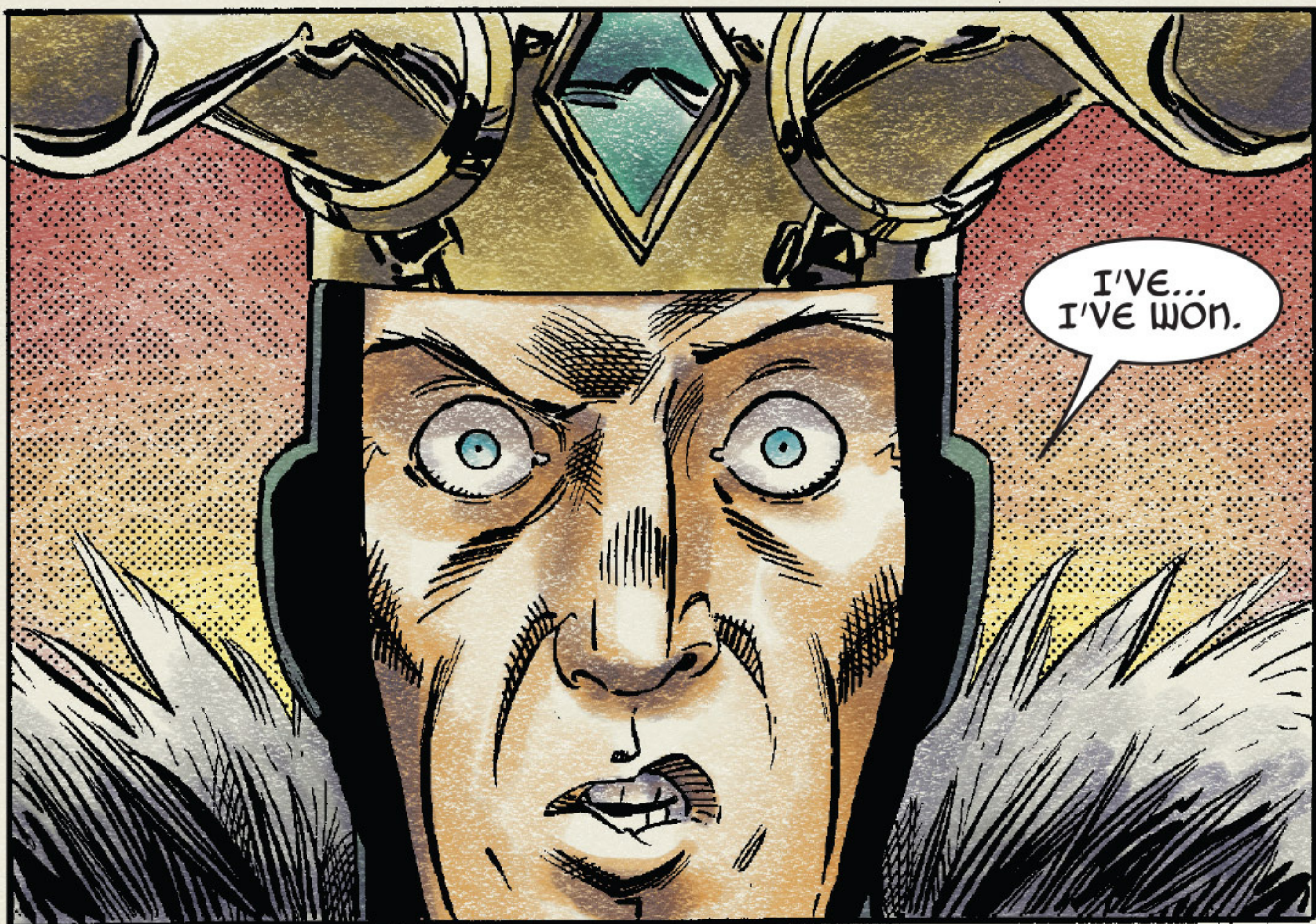
SO
SAY WE
ALL.



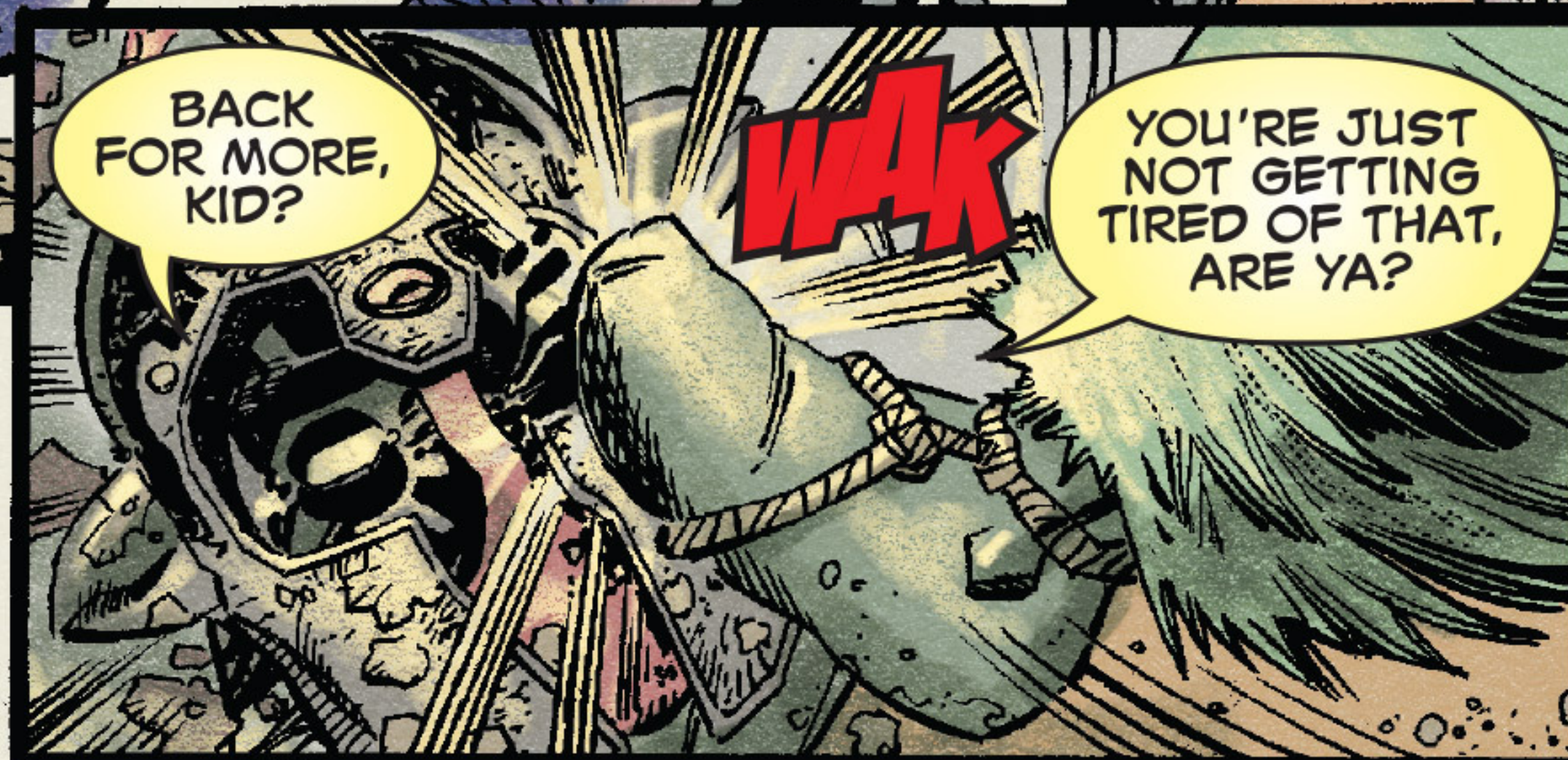
SO
SAY WE
ALL.



SO SAY
WE ALL



"IF YOU KNOW THE ENEMY AND YOURSELF, YOU DON'T HAVE TO FEAR THE RESULT OF A HUNDRED BATTLES, BECAUSE YOU WILL TRIUMPH."



"CHAPTER FOUR: THE VICTORIOUS STRATEGIST ONLY SEEKS BATTLE AFTER THE VICTORY HAS BEEN WON."

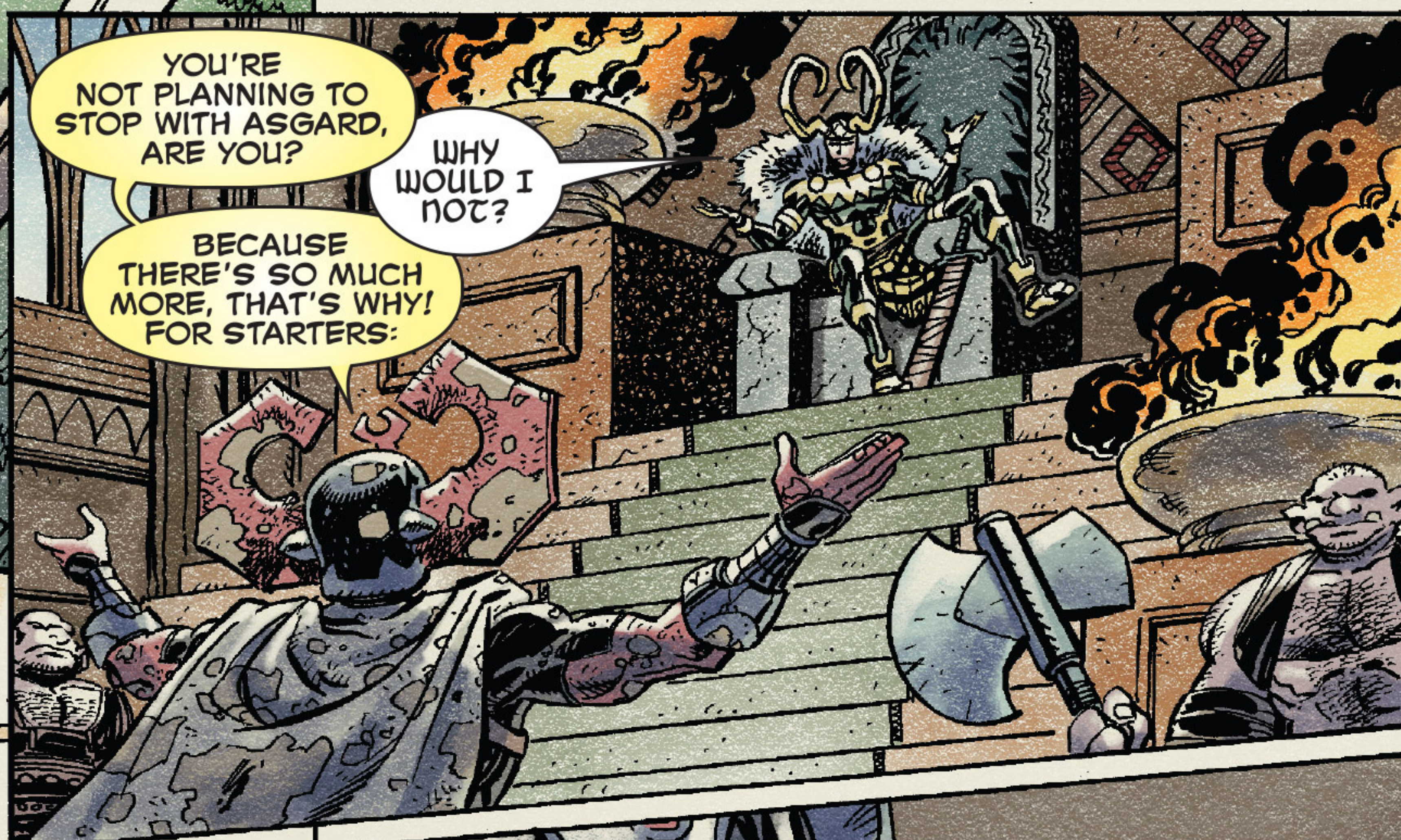


I DO NOT UNDERSTAND. I HAVE WON.

WHAT MORE NEED HAVE I FOR BATTLES?

YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?

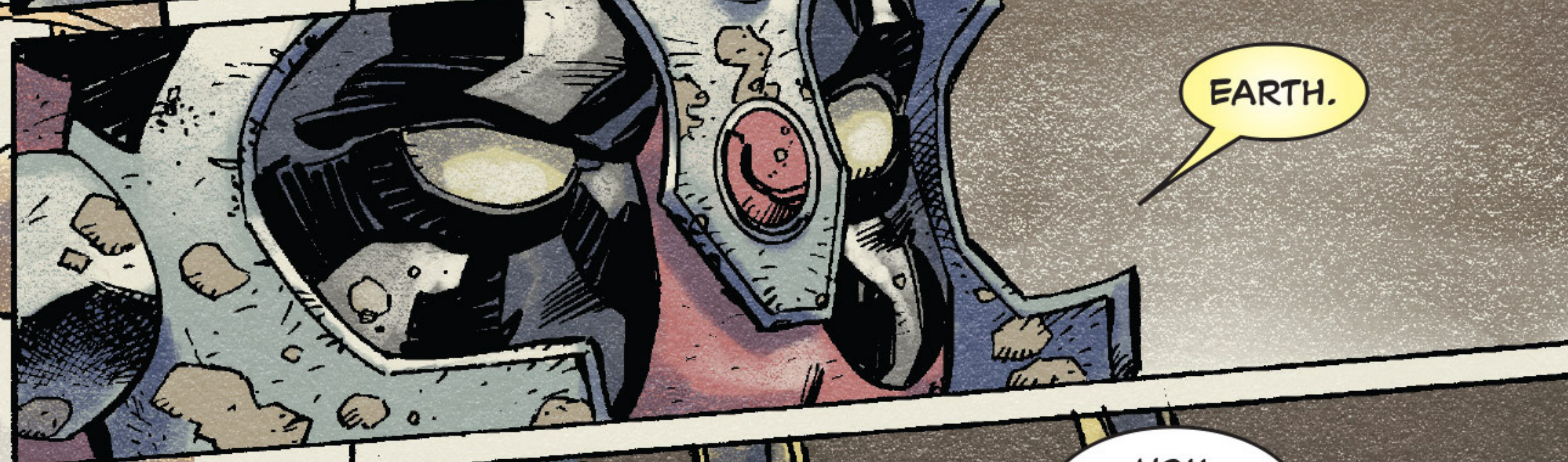
I TRICK. I DO NOT KID.



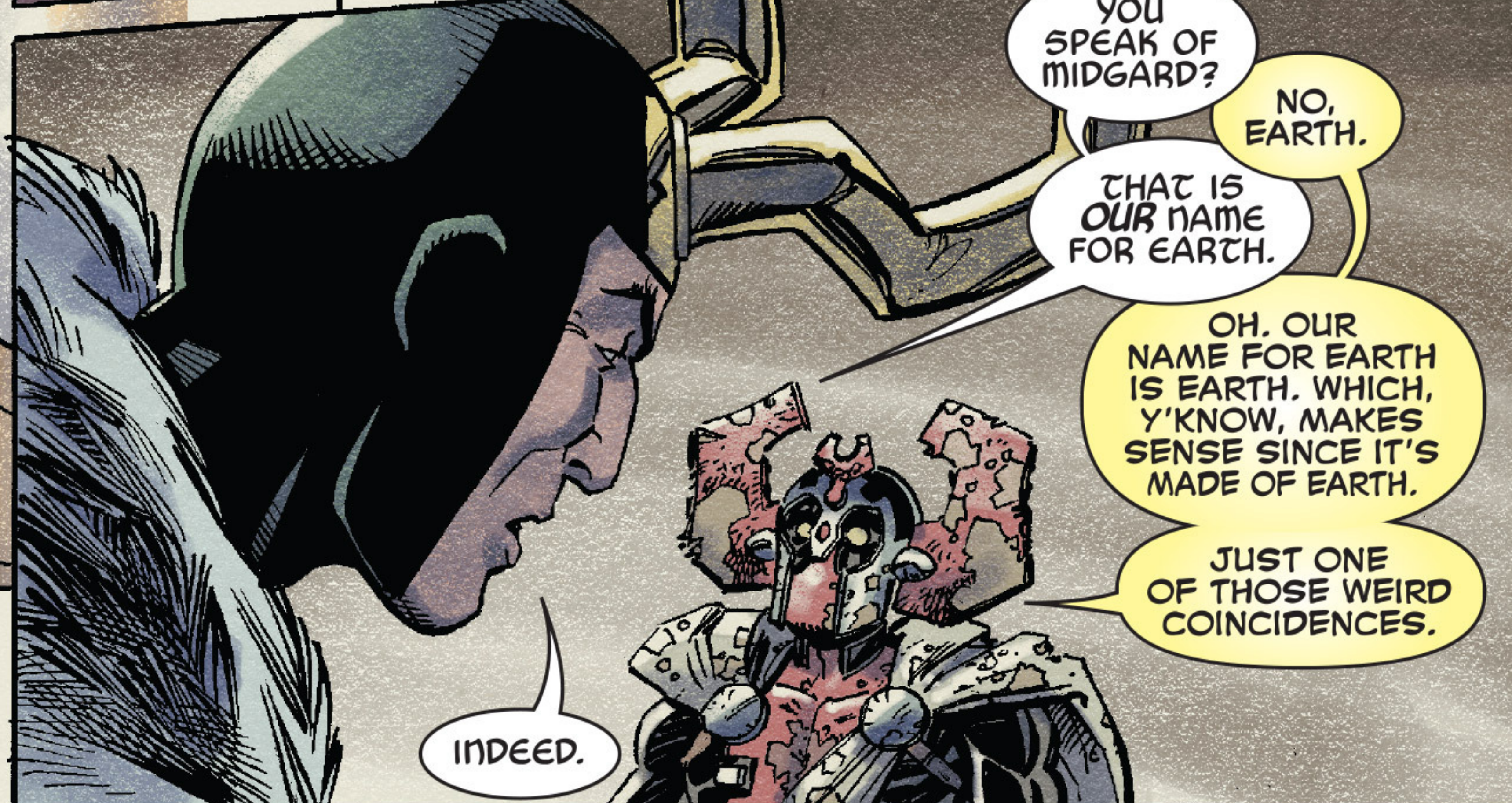
YOU'RE NOT PLANNING TO STOP WITH ASGARD, ARE YOU?

WHY WOULD I NOT?

BECAUSE THERE'S SO MUCH MORE, THAT'S WHY! FOR STARTERS:



EARTH.



YOU SPEAK OF MIDGARD?

NO, EARTH.

THAT IS OUR NAME FOR EARTH.

OH. OUR NAME FOR EARTH IS EARTH. WHICH, Y'KNOW, MAKES SENSE SINCE IT'S MADE OF EARTH.

JUST ONE OF THOSE WEIRD COINCIDENCES.

INDEED.



THE GOOD FIGHTERS MAKE IT SO NO ONE CAN DEFEAT THEM, AND THEN WAIT FOR A CHANCE TO BEAT THE ENEMY.

THE GENERAL WHO'S GOOD AT DEFENSE HIDES IN THE EARTH. THE ONE WHO'S GOOD AT ATTACK FLASHES DOWN FROM HEAVEN ITSELF.

THE SECOND ONE IS OBVIOUSLY YOU.

YES, OBVIOUSLY.



SO YOU'VE GOT THE RAINBOW BRIDGE! YOU CAN HEAD STRAIGHT DOWN TO EARTH!

TAKE YOUR TROOPS DOWN AND KICK THE CRAP OUTTA THE PLACE!



MIDGARD WAS ALWAYS DEAR TO THOR'S HEART. IT WOULD DEVASTATE HIM TO HAVE IT FALL BENEATH MY TROOPS.

SEE? NOW WE'RE TALKING!

WHAT I DO NOT UNDERSTAND IS THIS: YOU ARE FROM MIDGARD, YES?

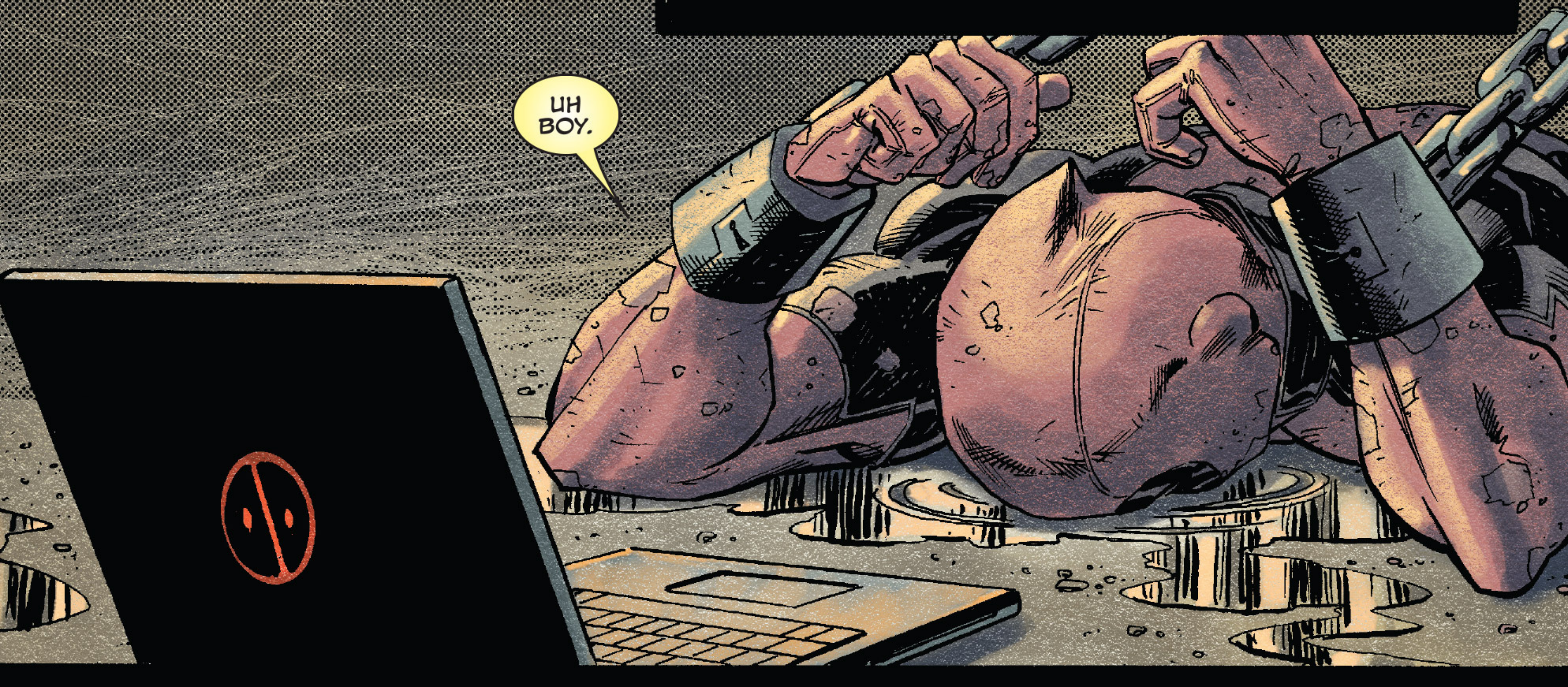
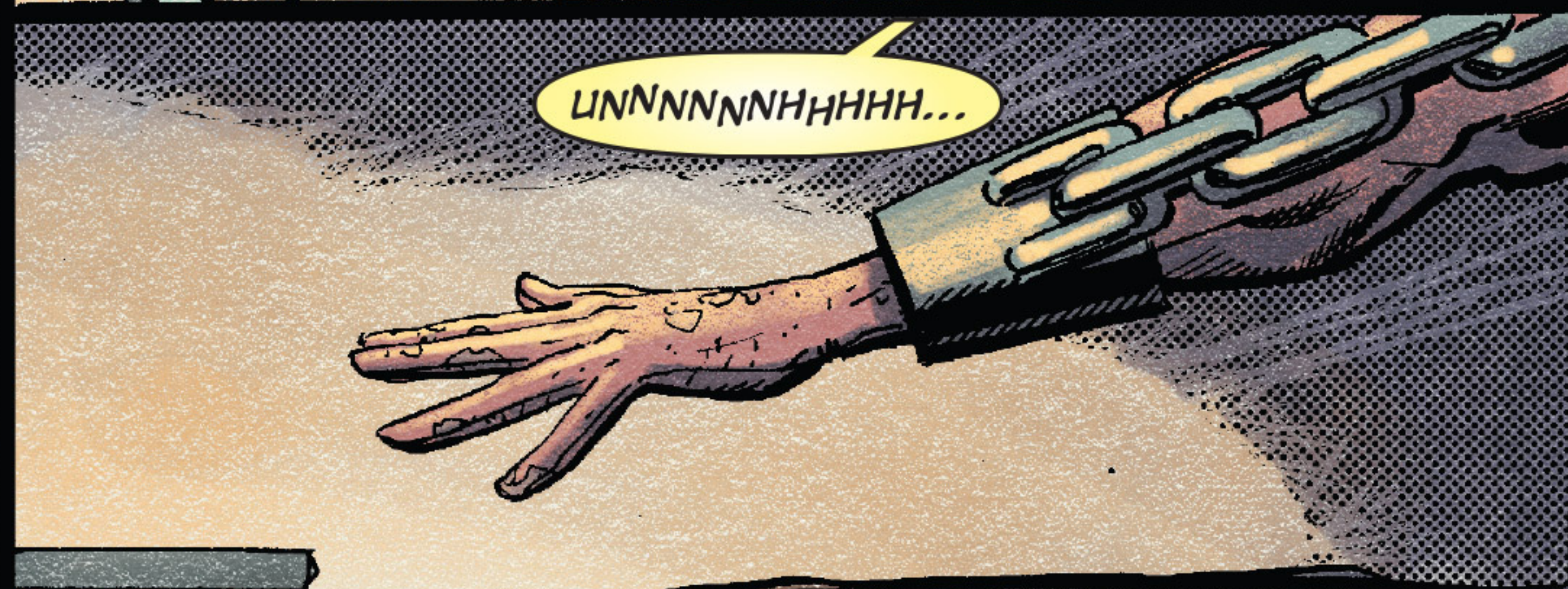
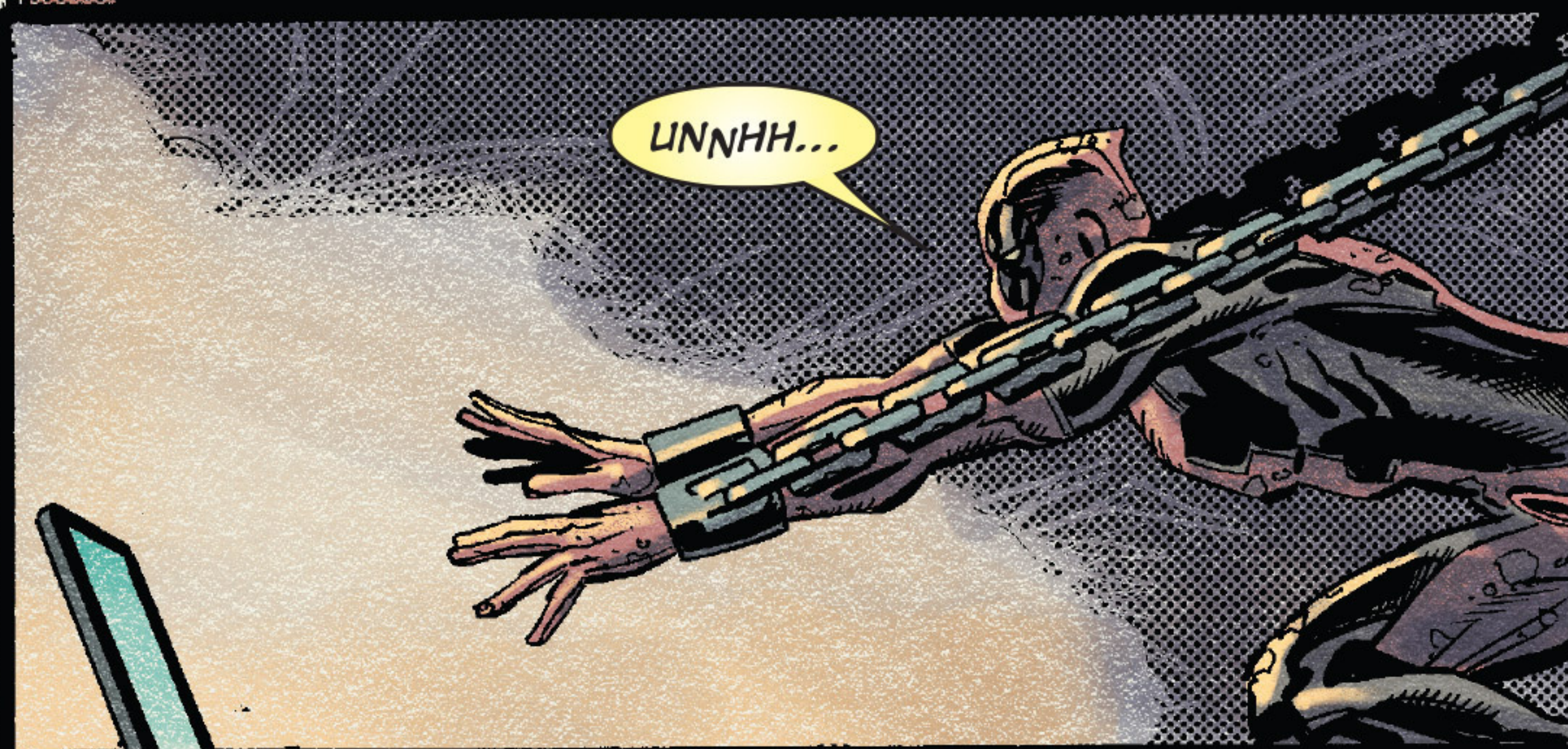
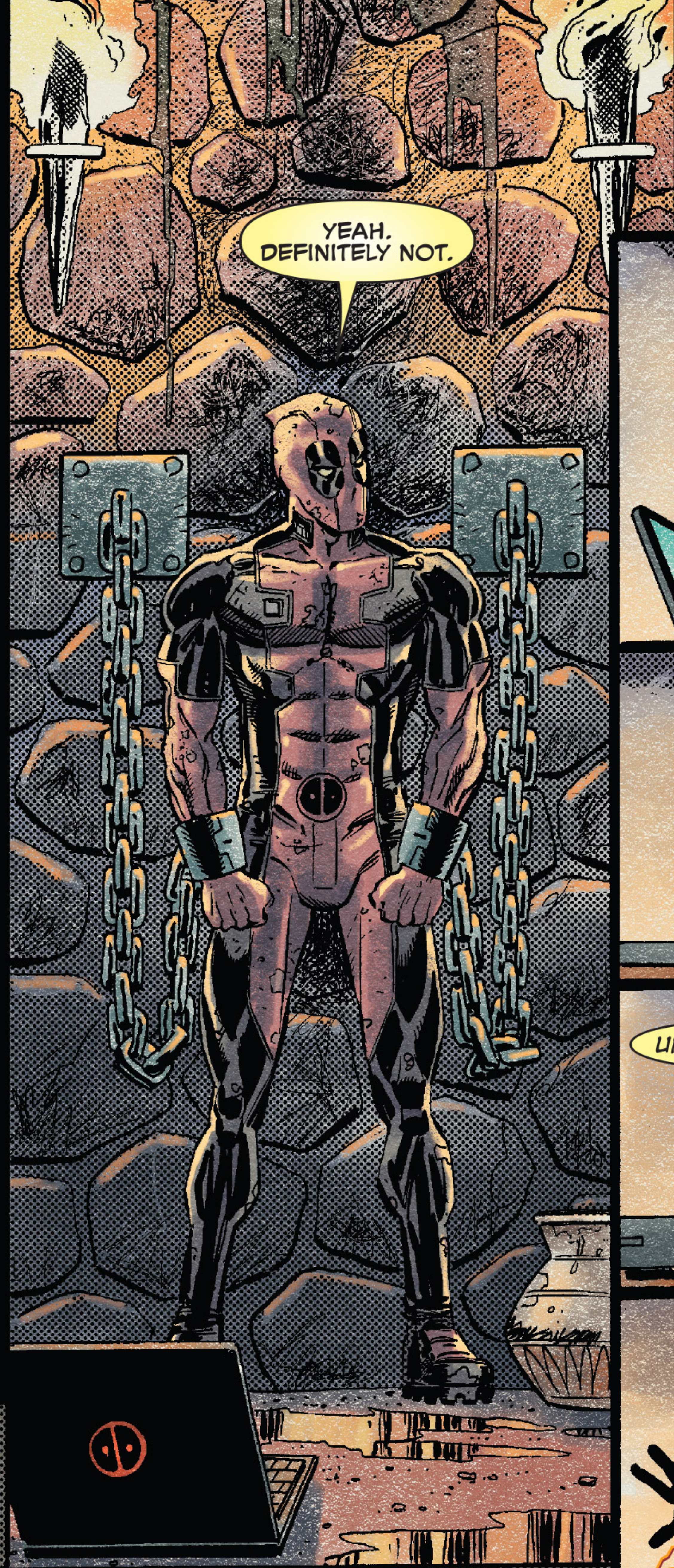
TECHNICALLY.

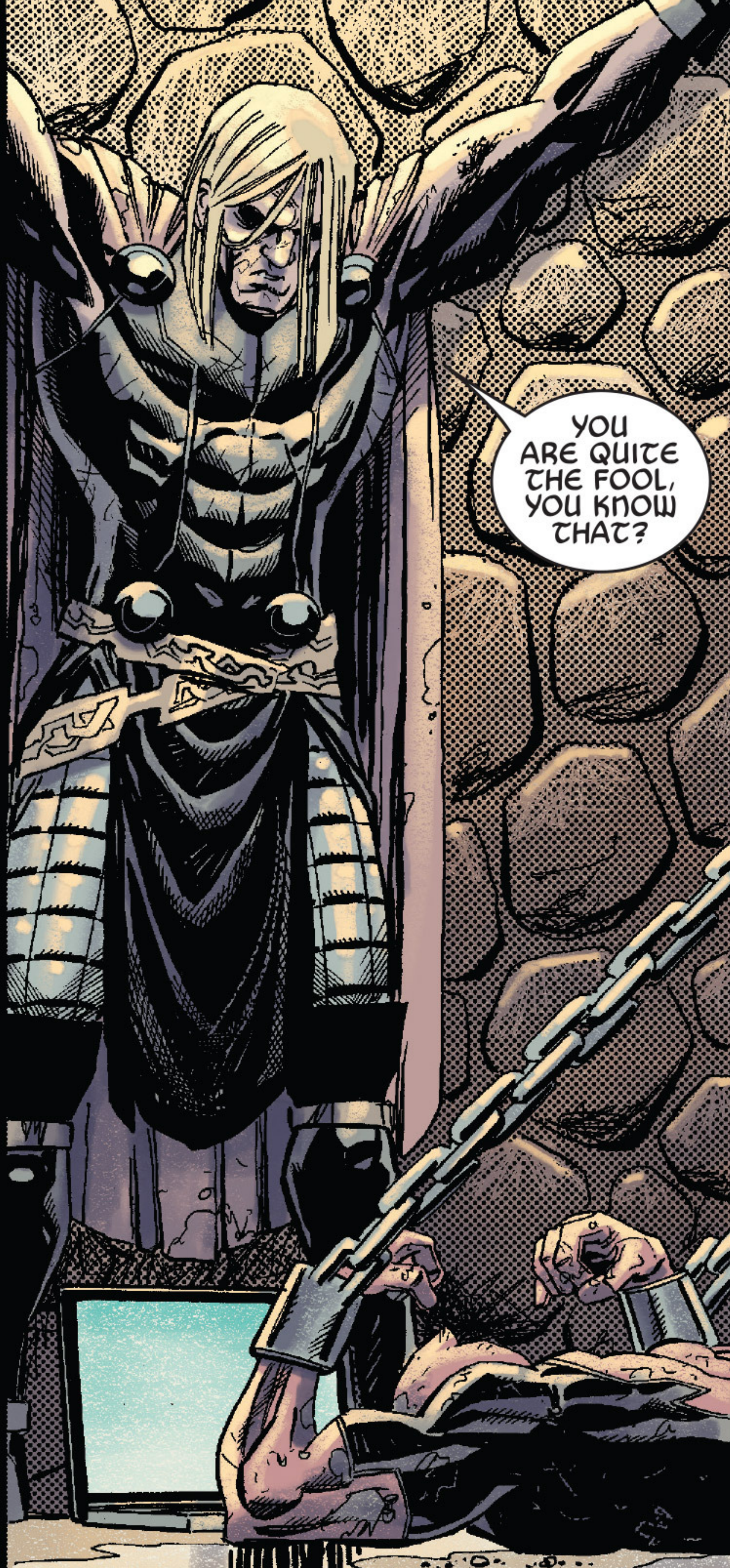
THEN WHAT ADVANTAGE IS THERE TO YOU TO SEE YOUR WORLD OVERRUN?

A BOOK DEAL.

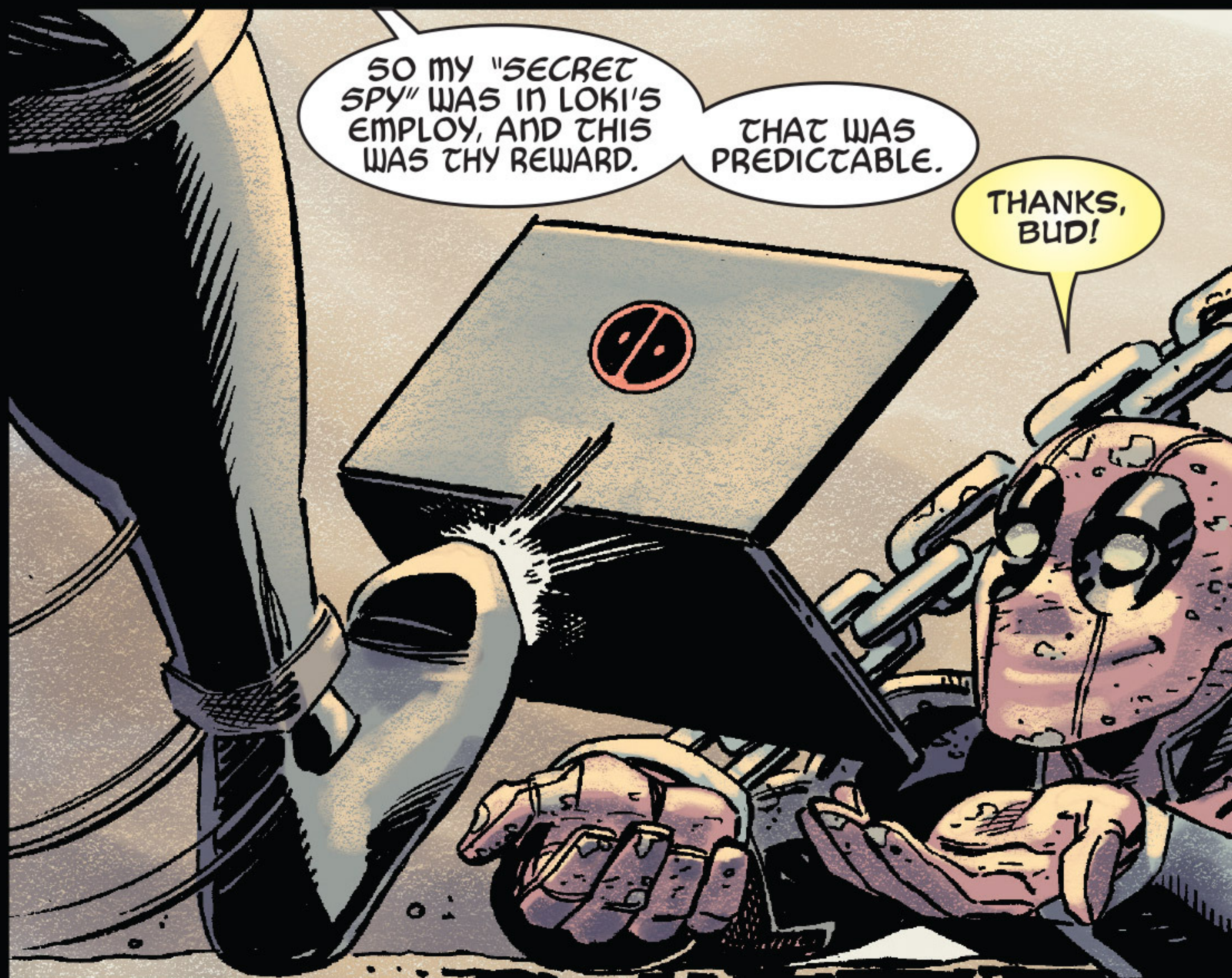


Y'KNOW WHAT? I DON'T THINK I SHOULD'A SAID THAT OUT LOUD.





YOU ARE QUITE THE FOOL, YOU KNOW THAT?



SO MY "SECRET SPY" WAS IN LOKI'S EMPLOY, AND THIS WAS THY REWARD.

THAT WAS PREDICTABLE.

THANKS, BUD!



THERE MAY BE MANY THINGS IN THIS WORLD THAT I AM...

...BUT THY "BUD" IS NOT AMONG THEM.

AW, DON'T BE THAT WAY.

YOU LURED ME INTO A TRAP. WHAT OTHER WAY WOULDST THOU SUGGEST I "BE"?



OH, I DIDN'T LURE YOU INTO ANYTHING.

YOU WALKED RIGHT INTO IT BECAUSE YOU IGNORED SOME OF THE BASIC LAWS OF WARFARE.

YOU IGNORED EVERYTHING. I SHOULD KNOW. I'M ADAPTING A BOOK ON IT.

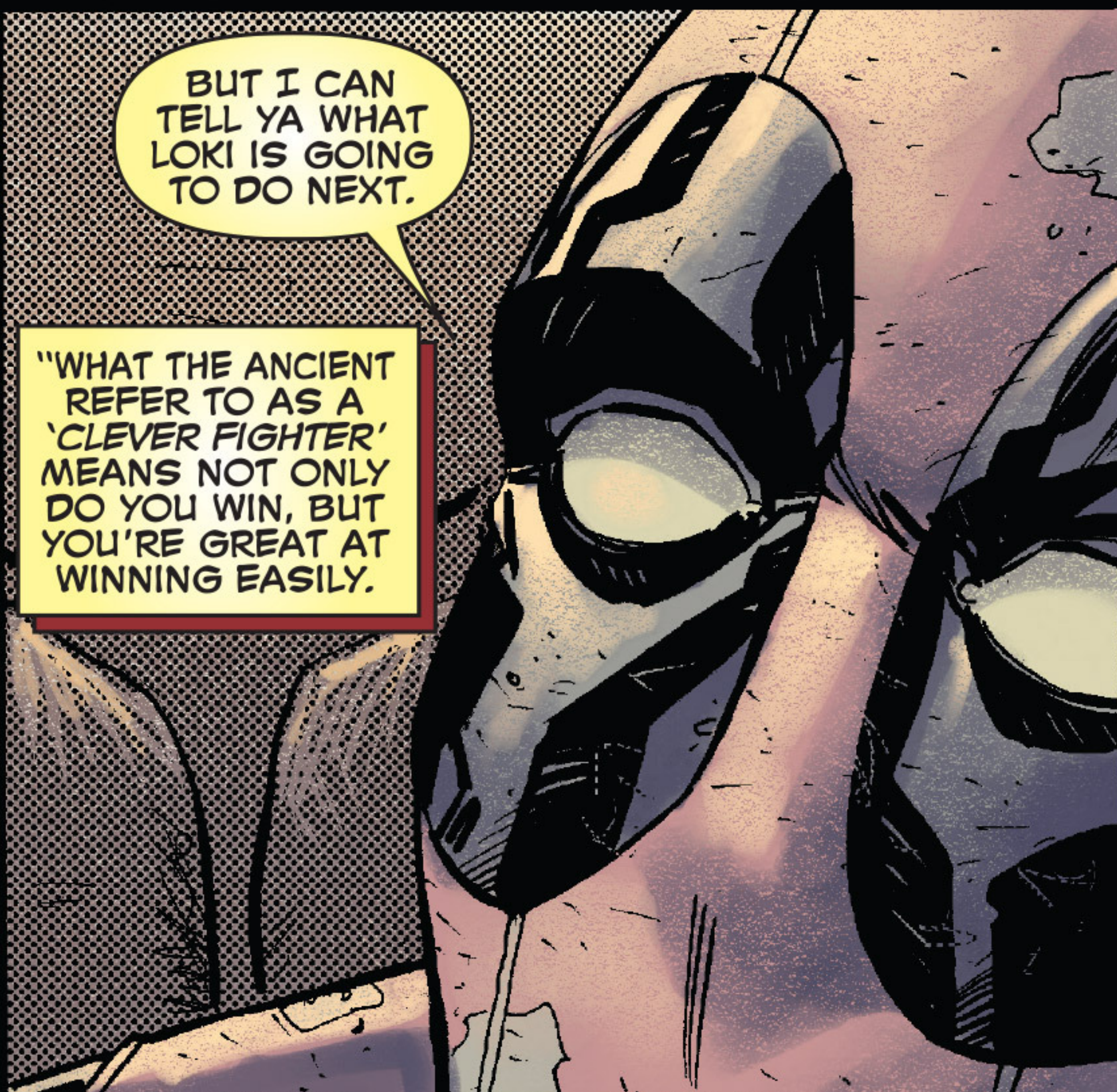
I IGNORED NOTHING.



THOU ART A VERY ANNOYING MORTAL.

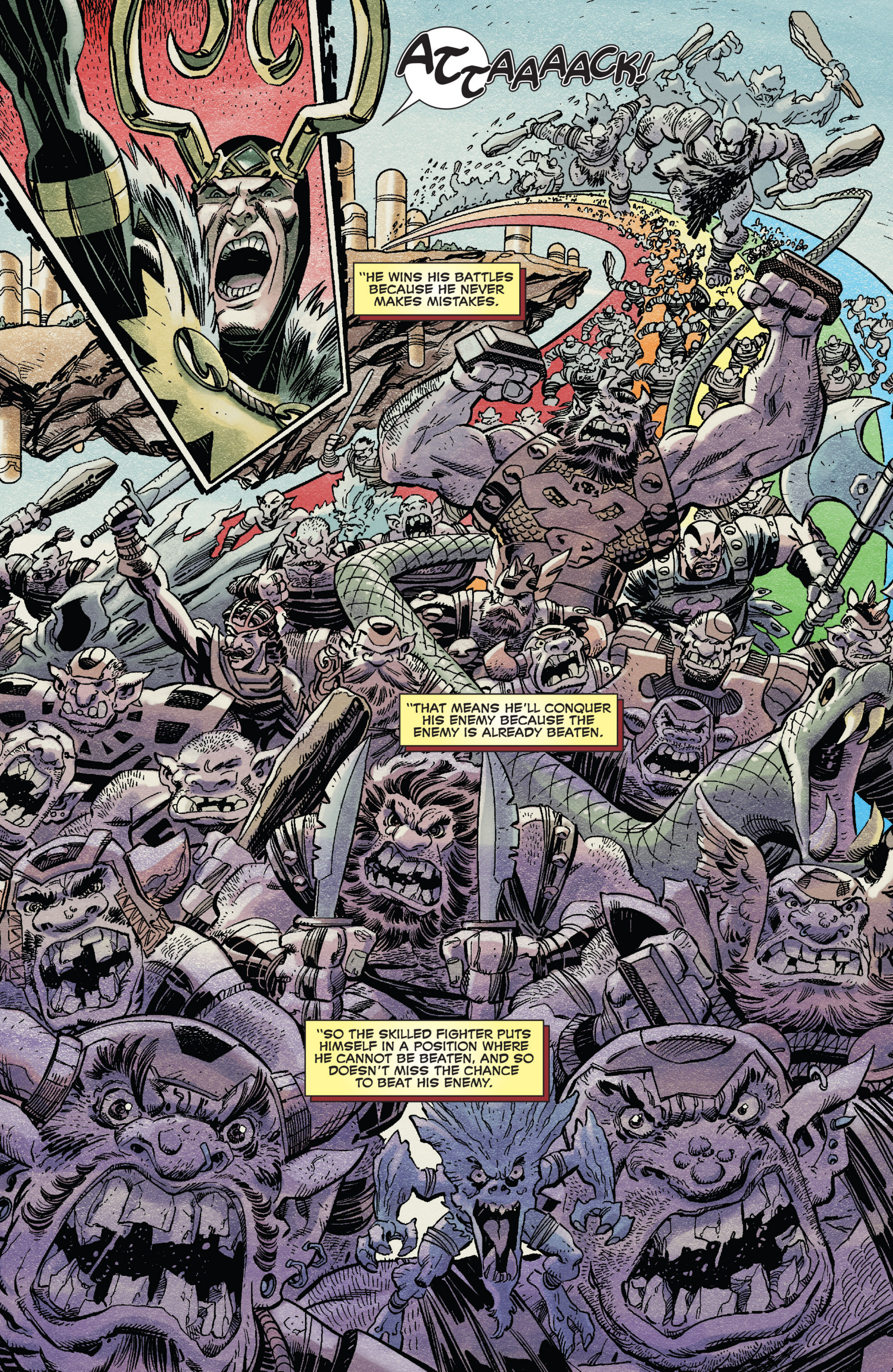
BE THERE ANYTHING IN THY BOOK ABOUT HOW TO SHRED CHAINS FORGED BY TROLLS FROM PURE MITHRAIL?

NOT A THING.



BUT I CAN TELL YA WHAT LOKI IS GOING TO DO NEXT.

"WHAT THE ANCIENT REFER TO AS A 'CLEVER FIGHTER' MEANS NOT ONLY DO YOU WIN, BUT YOU'RE GREAT AT WINNING EASILY."

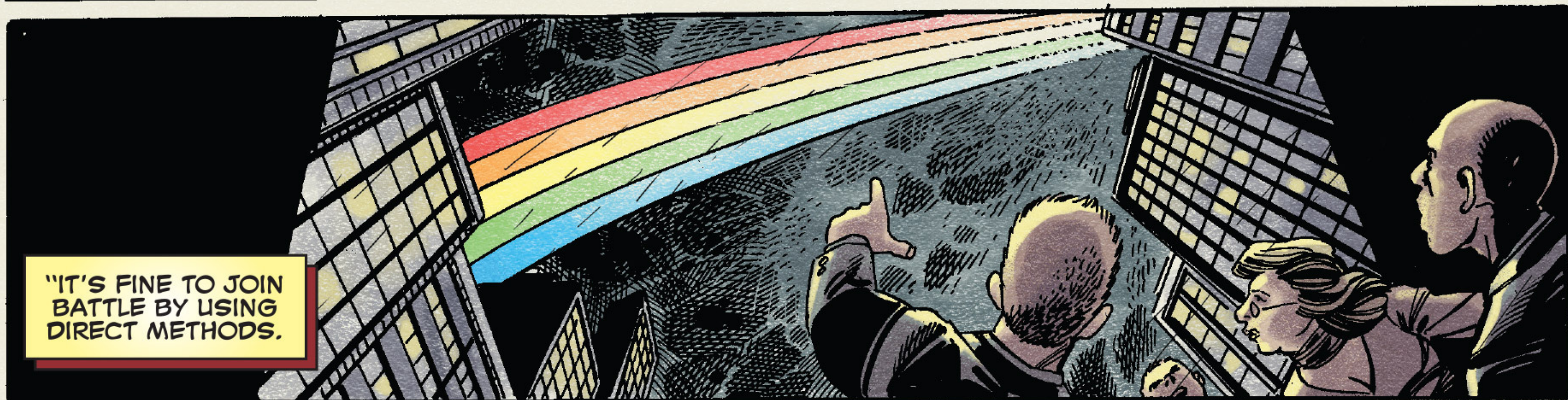


ATTAAACK!

"HE WINS HIS BATTLES
BECAUSE HE NEVER
MAKES MISTAKES."

"THAT MEANS HE'LL CONQUER
HIS ENEMY BECAUSE THE
ENEMY IS ALREADY BEATEN."

"SO THE SKILLED FIGHTER PUTS
HIMSELF IN A POSITION WHERE
HE CANNOT BE BEATEN, AND SO
DOESN'T MISS THE CHANCE
TO BEAT HIS ENEMY."





SPREAD
OUT, my
minions.



SPREAD OUT
AND DESTROY
EVERYTHING
YOU SEE!

LET THE
MIDGARDIANS
FEEL YOUR
WRATH...

AND KNOW
THAT THIS WAS
THE LAST DAY OF
THEIR FREEDOM!



YOU'RE
WRONG.



YOU HAVE
NO CHANCE.
YOU WILL BE
STOPPED.

SO SAYS A
HUMAN.

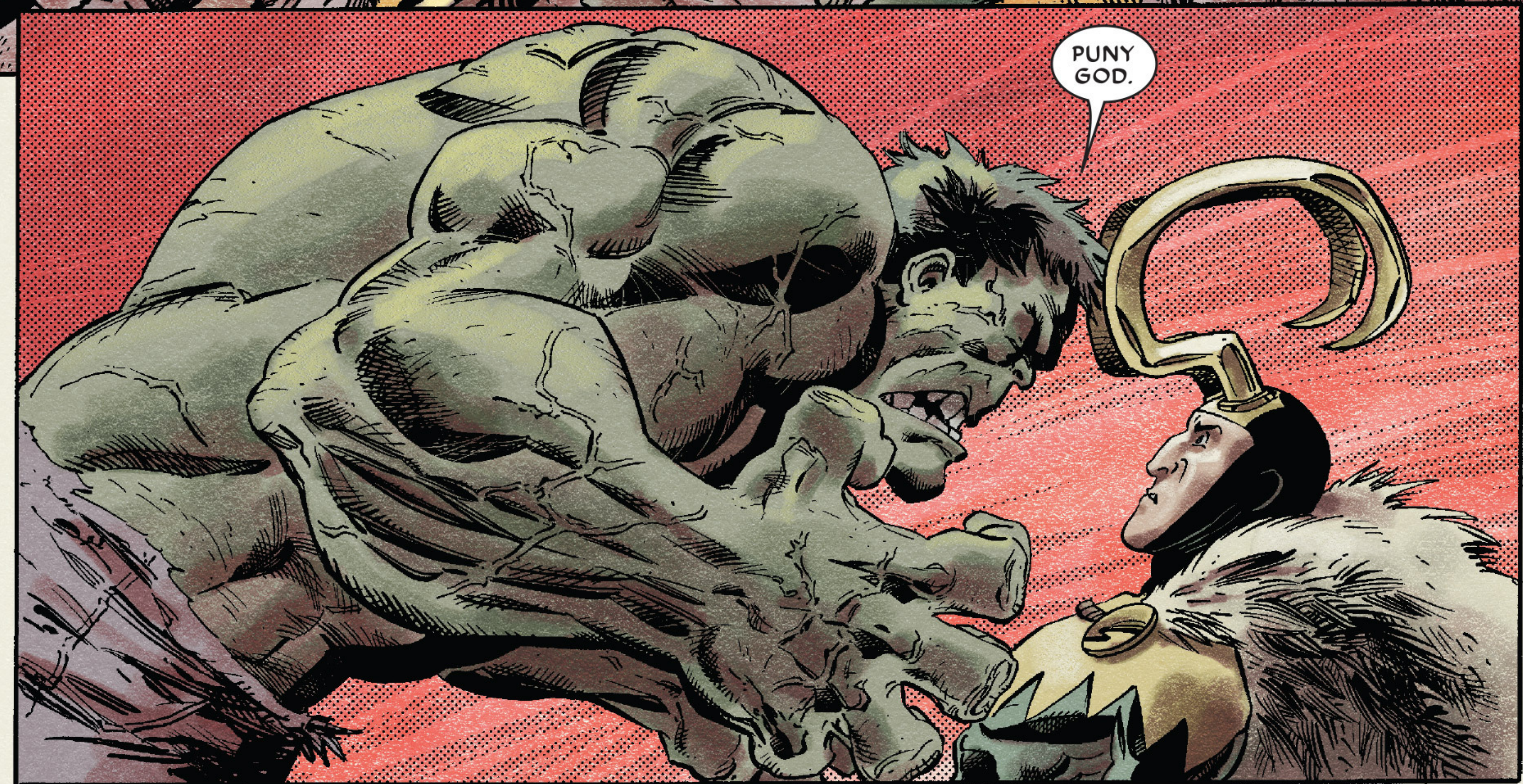
SO
SAY I.



DESTROY
THIS INSECT!



REMOVE HIS
HEAD AND SET IT
UPON THE NEAREST
SPIRE TO SHOW
THAT--

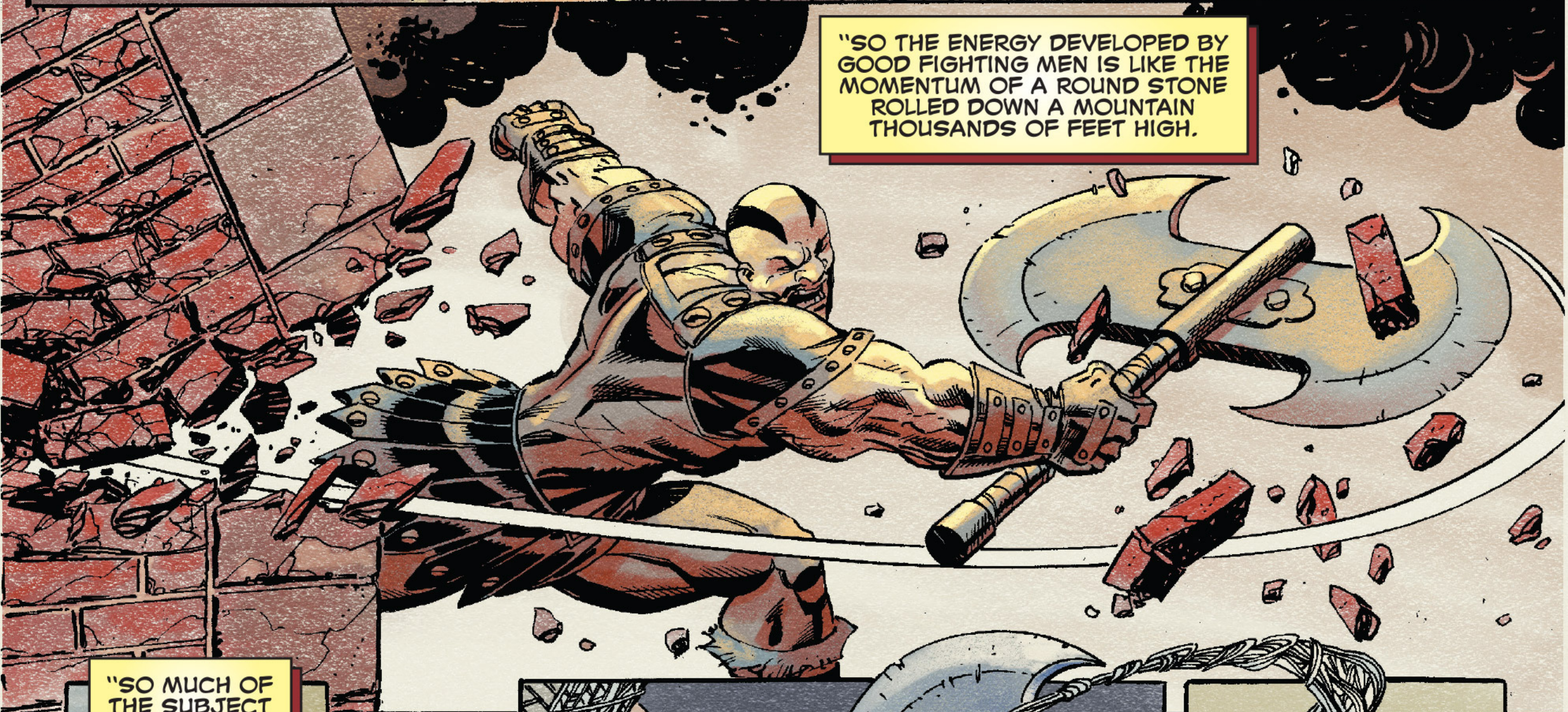




"THE ONSET OF TROOPS
IS LIKE A RUSHING WAVE
WHICH WILL ROLL STONES
ALONG IN ITS COURSE.

"SO THE GOOD FIGHTER WILL
BE TERRIBLE IN HIS ONSET,
AND PROMPT IN HIS DECISION.

"SO THE ENERGY DEVELOPED BY
GOOD FIGHTING MEN IS LIKE THE
MOMENTUM OF A ROUND STONE
ROLLED DOWN A MOUNTAIN
THOUSANDS OF FEET HIGH.



"SO MUCH OF
THE SUBJECT
IS ENERGY."

EH?

GIMME
THAT!

YOU
MIGHT HURT
SOMEBODY
WITH IT!

BRING ME
THAT.

DIDN'T YOU
HEAR ME? I
SAID THAT--

WHOA!!!

DID YOU
THINK THAT ONLY
THOR'S HAMMER IS
POSSESSED OF A
SPELL TO RETURN
TO HIS HAND?

FOOL! YOU
WILL DIE FOR
THAT BELIEF!

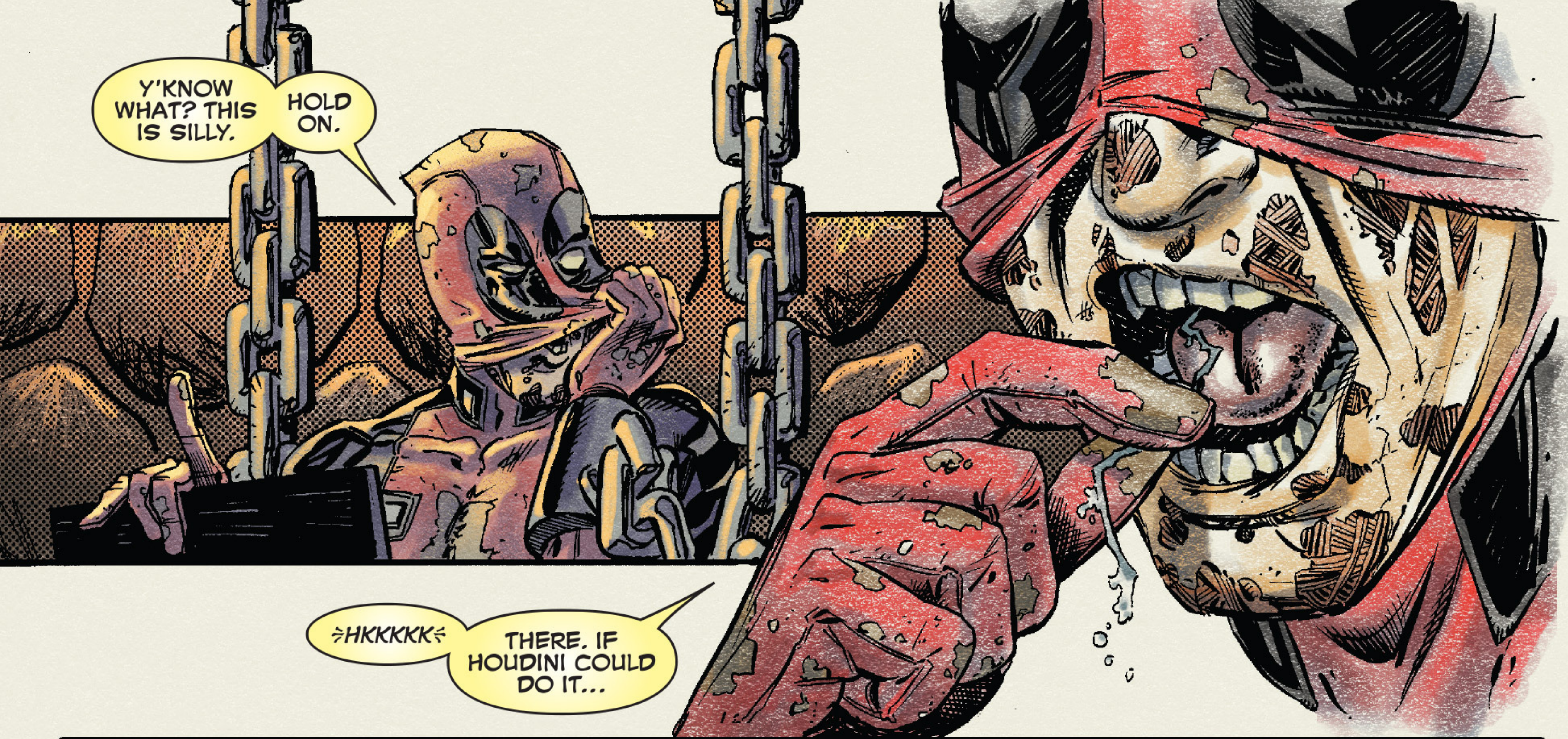
NOT TODAY,
THANKS.

YES, TODAY!
THIS VERY MOMENT
WILL BE YOUR--

YEAH, THAT'S
ENOUGH OF HIM.

RA-BLAAAAM



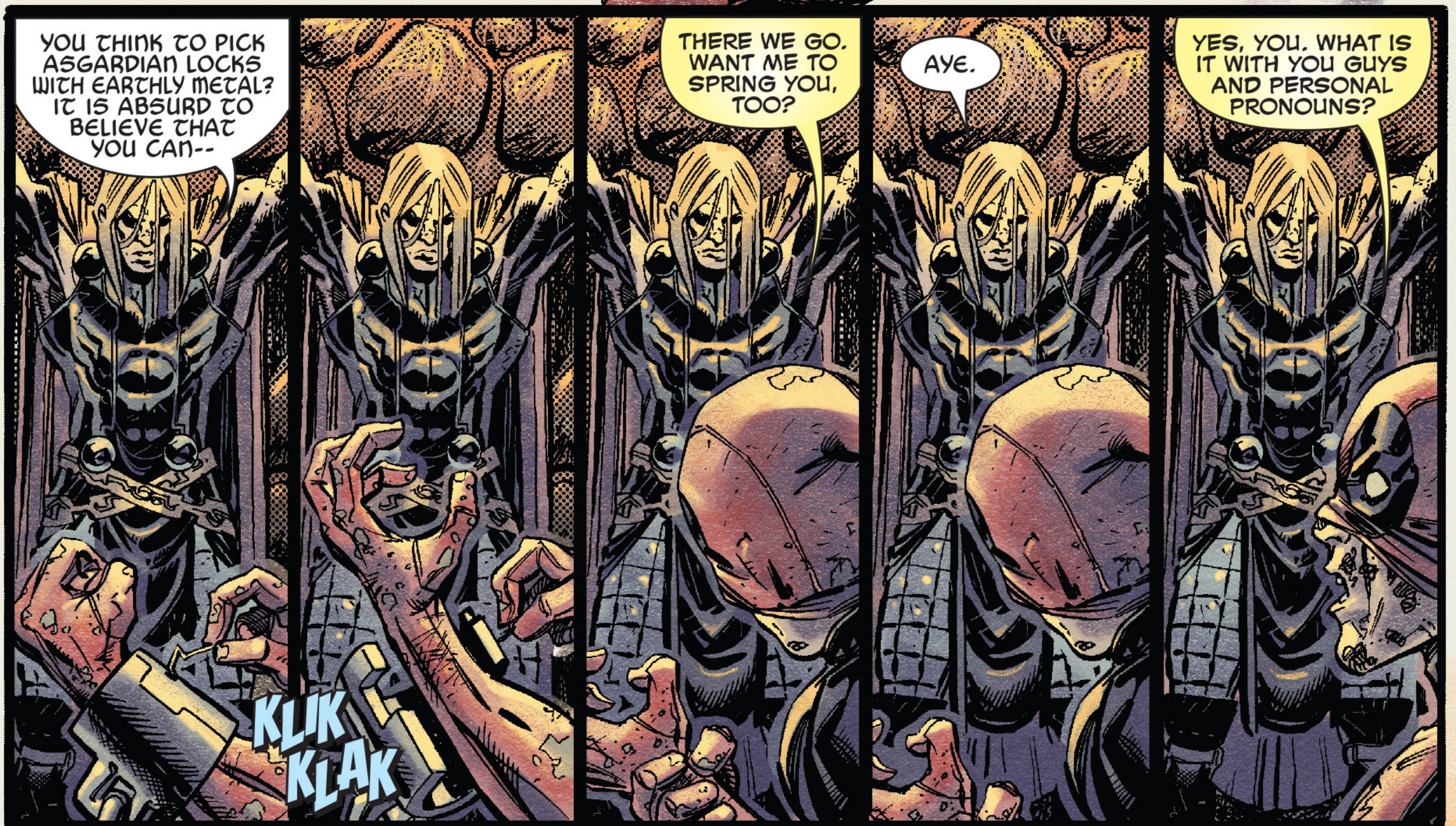


Y'KNOW
WHAT? THIS
IS SILLY.

HOLD
ON.

≡HKKKKK≡

THERE. IF
HOUDINI COULD
DO IT...



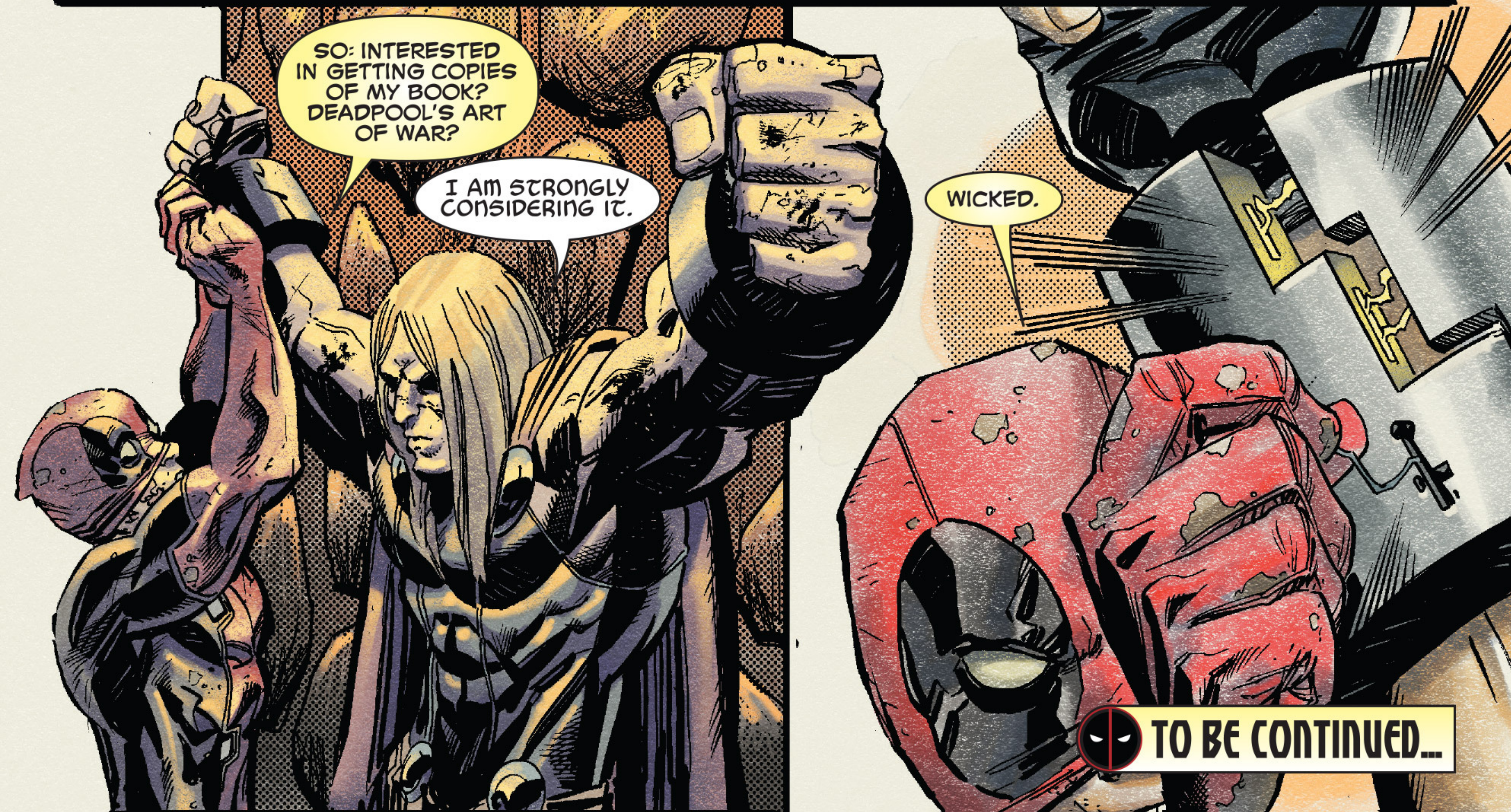
YOU THINK TO PICK
ASGARDIAN LOCKS
WITH EARTHLY METAL?
IT IS ABSURD TO
BELIEVE THAT
YOU CAN--

KLIK
KLAK

THERE WE GO.
WANT ME TO
SPRING YOU,
TOO?

AYE.

YES, YOU. WHAT IS
IT WITH YOU GUYS
AND PERSONAL
PRONOUNS?



SO: INTERESTED
IN GETTING COPIES
OF MY BOOK?
DEADPOOL'S ART
OF WAR?

I AM STRONGLY
CONSIDERING IT.

WICKED.

 TO BE CONTINUED...